

**Andrew Jackson to James Monroe, October 10, 1823,
from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by
John Spencer Bassett.**

TO PRESIDENT MONROE.

Hermitage, October 10, 1823.

Dear Sir, The first intimation I have had of the late act of congress,¹ was derived from the extract of a letter from Judge Brakenridge from Pensacola of date 12th of Septbr 1823, and herewith inclosed.

1 Apparently the act of Mar. 3, 1823, additional to the act for the prompt settlement of public accounts.

If the claims are for cattle taken or used by my army either in 1814, or 1818, they are groundless and fraudulent, which is only to be established by proof. They are such as ought not to be admitted or paid without an opportunity on behalf of the united States to be heard. They accounts admitted by the Department produced by the cherokees, and incorporated into the Cherokee Treaty which has been shewn to have originated in fraud certainly ought to have put congress on its guard, and have prevented such a law as alluded to by Judge Brakenridge from having been passed. If the claims are dated in 1814, it will be easy to shew, that the cattle seized by my Troops were trailed from alabama, to the Perdido and there overtaken, all of which were claimed by our citizens, or stolen from them by the Indians at the instigation of the Spaniards. Antwine Collins then Spanish contractor, and Capt Boyles were seized on suspicion and held in custody, untill I marched on Pensacola and found the cattle by Colo. Henry Dyer with a detachment as before stated. a few of these cattle were slaughtered on our return march their marks and

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brands preserved, and the contractor ordered to pay the Individuals for the cattle thus slaughtered. This was reported to me to have been done and the Ballance by orders to the quartermaster delivered to the owners who attended, and proved their property in the cattle.

On my march in 1818 from Ft Gadsden to Pensacola, on the East Bank of the Escambia, two Spaniards who was met at the head of the Bay by that name collected us a few cattle, which was slaughtered by orders to the quartermaster, and paid for. On the East side of the Escambia, we were met with supplies, and Colo. George Gibson Joined me, who can vouch for the payment of every particle of supplies obtained whilst in Florida. It is passing strange that where claims are exhibited by our own citizens with what Just scrutiny they are investigated, but when exhibited by *Indians* , or *Spaniards* , admitted without an opportunity of investigation by those concerned, and the United States thereby defrauded out of thousands. The object of this hasty letter is to request that you notify the Secretary of the Treasury, of the frauds upon which these accounts are founded, that they may be suspended untill a full inquiry shall be had into the Justness of these claims. I am determined that an enquiry shall be had. I bestowed much Labour to investigate the frauds committed by the cherokees in the coments incorporated in the Treaty, had them forwarded with a request that the Testimony should be laid before congress without avail. Colo. Gibson is in the city. Colo. Gadsdens Testimony with Colos. King Williamson Elliott Dyer, Brady and Mitchell with many others can be provened. I inclose a certificate of Colo. Robert Butler.

I am Sir with great respect yr. mo. obdt. servt.